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Library: The Drama Within

Library of Congress

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April 7, 1997

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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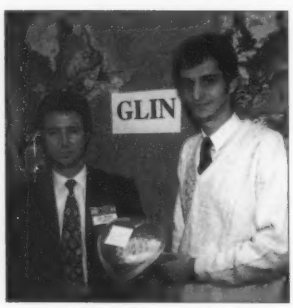

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JOHN H. SAYERS, Production

News from the National Digital Library

'Today in History' Debuts on American Memory

The Library is now offering "Today in History" from its American Memory home page of on-line collections from the Library of Congress.

"Today in History" is designed to present daily historical facts highlighted by materials from the American Memory collections, available at http://www.loc.gov/.

For example, on April 25 the site will observe the birthday of one of America's most prominent architects, William L. Pereira, who designed the

Los Angeles Museum of Art, the Houston Center and the Elgin National Watch Co., among other buildings. The site offers photographs from the American Memory collection Architecture and Interior Design for 20th Century America: Photographs by Samuel Gottscho and William Schleisner.

This collection contains more than 29,000 images, primarily of architectural sites.

Each day, users can visit the American Memory site to learn about the history of the day and to view or hear Library materials relating to that day. Previous offerings will be archived for reference. The site's direct address is http://memory.loc.gov/.

Copyright Office Initiates Second 'CORDS' Test Site

Stanford University Works to Test New System

The U.S. Copyright Office has opened its second test site for the CORDS System (Copyright Office Electronic Registration, Recordation and Deposit System). Stanford University is cooperating with the Copyright Office to test the new electronic registration and deposit system that receives copyright applications, deposited works and related documents transmitted in digital form over international communications networks such as the Internet, and processes them electronically.

During the week of Feb. 24, Stanford University's Department of Computer Science successfully transmitted digital copies of three technical reports along with copyright application forms filled out on-line and "signed" digitally using public key/private key encryption technology. In a few minutes, Stanford staff prepared and submitted the copyright registration materials using CORDS. The CORDS system enables the Copyright Office to complete its processing and issue a copyright registration certificate within 10 to 15 working days, or about three weeks, compared with four or more months under the current, largely manual, process.

"Once fully implemented, the CORDS registration and deposit system will benefit both the Copyright Office and copyright owners by providing an efficient new registration mechanism," said Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters. "It should also provide an effective source for the Library of Congress to acquire new publications in digital form for its growing National Digital Library collections."

The Library's future digital collections will include a wide variety of digital materials, including new titles received in digital form via copyright deposit or other means as well as older works converted from the Library's historical collections for educational purposes as part of its National Digital Library Program.

Two of the Stanford applications required e-mail correspondence with the applicants because of an initial problem with transmission of the deposits. But a minor adjustment to the CORDS software corrected the problem and permitted the CORDS team to test the e-mail correspondence portion of the CORDS software. The third claim, submitted after the CORDS software adjustment was made, moved through the system without any difficulties. Copyright examination was completed the next day, and the digital

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'Building a Nation of Readers'

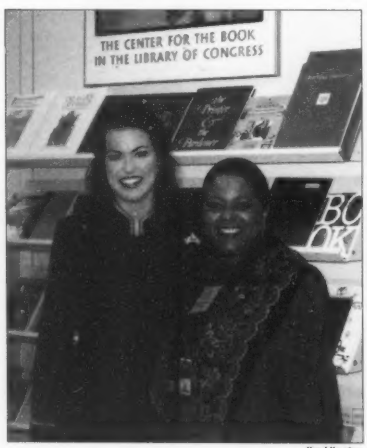
Miss America Launches Library's Reading Promotion Campaign

Tara Holland, Miss America 1997, came to the Library on March 21 to help launch "Building a Nation of Readers," the Library's national reading promotion campaign for 1997-2000.

Ms. Holland is the official campaign spokesperson. "Building a Nation of Readers" is the sixth national reading promotion campaign organized by the Center for the Book since 1987.

Joined by Dr. Billington, Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, Rep. Thomas C. Sawyer (D-Ohio) and representatives from Reading Is Fundamental and the National Institute for Literacy, Ms. Holland unveiled a new promotional poster contributed to the campaign by Jim Henson Productions and participated in a drawing to select the National Reading Is Fundamental Reader for 1997.

"Since she became Miss America last September, Tara Holland has become a highly visible and inspiring spokesperson for the cause of literacy and reading," said Mr. Cole.



Jim Higgins

Tara Holland visits Program Officer Maurvene Williams in the Center for the Book offices.

Jim Higgins

John Cole and Tara Holland unveil the new "Building a Nation of Readers" poster during a March 21 news conference at the Library. The poster will be available to the public at a later time.

Ms. Holland, who became a literacy volunteer at the age of 17, was a graduate student at the University of Missouri prior to winning the Miss America title. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Florida State University and landed her first job as an adult literacy tutor. At Florida State, she was vice president and then president of the Campus Alliance for Literacy.

Miss America emphasized her belief in the "power of one – the power of commitment," and said there is a place for every person in the world of reading. She mentioned "The Little Engine that Could" as the influential book that got her started in reading.

After her initial comments, she and Dr. Billington opened the exhibition "Library: The Drama Within," which emphasizes the vital role of libraries in literacy and lifelong learning. The exhibition features 26 photographs by Diane Asséo Griliches of libraries around the world and is currently on display in the Madison Building (see related story, page 132).

Then, two television public service announcements on literacy were shown, one featuring country music singer Faith Hill.

Secretary of Education Riley followed with his comments on the importance of literacy and adult education. "Literacy is about more than reading well. Literacy is about living well," he said.

A question-and-answer session with Ms. Holland followed; she addressed issues such as literacy and adult education in correctional institutions, literacy among immigrants and opportunities for visually impaired children.

"Literacy is the key to America's future," she concluded. "The 'Building a Nation of Readers' campaign will remind Americans that they can make a difference in the lives of individuals and the life of our nation."

– Jason Yasner

Mr. Yasner is production editor of The Gazette, *the Library's staff newspaper.*

Library Officials Testify Before Senate Oversight Panel

During the Library's first oversight hearing of the 105th Congress, Dr. Billington, Deputy Librarian Donald Scott and Congressional Research Service Director Daniel P. Mulhollan told a Senate panel that the Library increasingly relies on automation to get its work done and meet the demands of its users.

Addressing the Senate Rules and Administration panel, led by Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.), on March 20, Dr. Billington said: "Perhaps the most striking change [in our Library work] is our increasing use of technology."

"Today, [our] American Memory collections are the cornerstone of the Library's highly praised home page on the World Wide Web, which has recently been the subject of considerable praise by *Time* magazine, *The New York Times*, *Parade* magazine, and *PC World*," the Librarian said.

After welcoming the Library witnesses, Sen. Warner said: "I am ... anxious to hear what the Library considers to be the greatest challenges facing it as it moves toward the 21st century. ... I look forward to Mr. Mulhollan's testimony this morning and would like to add, as I did at last year's hearing, that over the course of my 18 years in the Senate, my office has consistently received thorough and unbiased products from CRS. I am confident that CRS, under the able leadership of Mr. Mulhollan, will continue producing such quality work."

During the question period, Dr. Billington explained to Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, that the Library is seeking congressional guidance on its upcoming 200th birthday celebration. "The full reopening of the Jefferson Building in 1997 and the bicentenary of the Library of Congress in the year 2000 will provide special opportunities to reinforce and enhance the quality, intelligibility and accessibility of the American creative heritage that has been gathered here, thanks largely to the placement of the Copyright Office in the Library for the last 136 years and the richness of copyright deposit.

> **"The Library is ... the hub of a growing electronic network of information that is rapidly becoming accessible almost everywhere."**
>
> *– James H. Billington*
> *Librarian of Congress*

"The Library would welcome the Congress's guidance in crafting this 200-year milestone in the life of the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, and we have submitted draft legislation for your consideration," Dr. Billington said.

The Library has consulted with congressional oversight committees regarding legislation to authorize minting a bicentennial commemorative coin and establishing a Bicentennial Advisory Board.

Dr. Billington told the panel that new technology, such as the Internet's World Wide Web, has allowed the Library to offer more to members of Congress and share its collections with those who live beyond Washington. "Technology has, in a number of areas, helped the Library steadily increase access to its collections and service to Congress," Dr. Billington said.

He told the panel that an Integrated Library System — a key part of LC's FY 1998 budget proposal (see LC *Information Bulletin*, March 10) — would integrate and upgrade many of LC's computer systems for processing and cataloging collections and automate the few remaining manual systems. "The key new request is for an Integrated Library System that will electronically make almost all our key services faster and less expensive," Dr. Billington said.

During his testimony, CRS Director Daniel P. Mulhollan recapped CRS's services to Congress during 1996. "Congress called on CRS for information and analysis on approximately half a million occasions. In response to these requests, we created more than 1,000 new written research products. We delivered nearly 2,800 custom, confidential memoranda and gave 2,600 in-person briefings and consultations. More than 690,000 copies of our reports and issue briefs were distributed to Congress last year.

"CRS staff provided research and analysis to members and congressional staff on hundreds of legislative issues: on sweeping changes in welfare and immigration law, health care legislation, social security and retirement, wages and employment, telecommunications reform, the line-item veto, taxes, banking and finance reform, the farm bill and agricultural concerns, environmental issues, juvenile crime and research and development policy. In addition, we covered issues related to the defense budget and to U.S.

Continued on page 137

News from the Center for the Book

Center's Home Page Expanded

The Center for the Book's home page on the Library of Congress Web site has been expanded to include clearinghouse and directory functions that are crucial to the center's national mission of promoting books, reading and libraries.

"We have added information about the reading and literacy promotion activities of dozens of the organizations that work with us as national reading promotion partners," said Maurvene D. Williams, the center's program officer. "In addition, there are hyperlinks to the home pages of most of these organizations and to the 13 state centers that have home pages. Basic information about all of our state centers also is available, along with a new national calendar of book fairs, literary festivals and other book events taking place around the country."

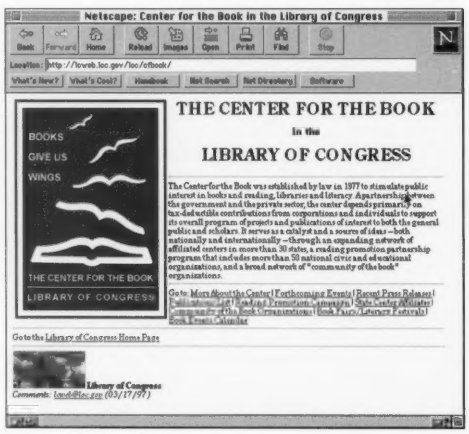
General information about the Center for the Book's mission, forthcoming events and publications also is available on the home page, along with a description about how individuals and organizations can participate in "Building a Nation of Readers," the center's national reading promotion campaign for 1997-2000.

The "Book Fairs/Literary Festivals" entry lists U.S. events only, but will be expanded at a later date to include international events. Links from each entry lead either to the home page of the sponsoring organization or to an entry prepared by the Center for the Book. This segment also will become an appendix to the fourth edition of *The Community of the Book: A Directory of Organizations and Programs*, now being prepared by the center.

The "Book Events Calendar" provides dates, location and contact information for book fairs, literary festivals and other book events primarily in the United States. The calendar is updated weekly.

Future expansion plans include information about additional reading promotion partners; the executive summary of the center's recent publication, *Even Anchors Need Lifelines: Public Libraries in Adult Literacy*; and a list of history of the book programs sponsored by academic institutions and historical societies in the United States and abroad.

The Center for the Book's direct Web site address is http://lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/. From the Library of Congress's home page it can also be accessed at http://www.loc.gov/(click on Center for the Book link in left column).


Netscape: Center for the Book in the Library of Congress
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in the
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
BOOKS GIVE US WINGS
THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Go to the Library of Congress Home Page

The results of Center for the Book projects also are available through two additional sites. "Read More About It!" lists suggested books about the topics of 18 digitized American Memory collections and is accessible through the "Learning Page" at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/. Two well-illustrated books by Center for the Book director John Y. Cole, *Jefferson's Legacy: A Brief History* (1993) and *On These Walls: Inscriptions and Quotations in the Buildings of the Library of Congress* (1995) have been digitized and are available from the "About the Library" section, accessible from the left column of main home page (www.loc.gov).

■ **Preservation Awareness Workshop to Be Held on April 15.** In cooperation with the Library's Preservation Directorate, the Center for the Book is cosponsoring the Library's second annual "Preservation Awareness Workshop." It will be held on April 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the Madison Building. The public is invited to view demonstrations and gather information from conservators and other Library of Congress specialists. For information contact Amparo Torres, telephone (202) 707-1026.

"It's too easy to overlook the importance of book preservation," said Center for the Director John Y. Cole. "This workshop aims to educate the general public about preservation and conservation in an informal and informative setting. It also showcases the considerable talents of LC's preservation and conservation specialists.

Throughout the day, visitors will be able to see demonstrations of gold tooling, paper mending, book sewing, materials testing and matting and hinging of works of art on paper. Library specialists will answer questions and provide printed information about the handling, cleaning and storage of books, papers and documents, prints, photographs, compact disks, sound recordings and motion picture film.

In addition to the Library's professional conservation and curatorial staff, representatives of nonprofit professional associations in the preservation field as well as companies that manufacture and distribute conservation products will answer questions and provide information about preservation products and issues.

The workshop's emphasis will be on the preservation and storage of paper, newspaper, magnetic media and film. Evaluative services will not be offered.

■ **Two State Centers Receive "Audience for Literature" Planning Grants.** The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund has awarded $15,000 planning grants to the Washington Center for the Book (located at the Seattle Public Library) and the Florida Center for the Book (located at the Broward County Library) to plan three-year programs that will help each center "serve larger and more diverse segments of their communities." The awards are part of the Fund's "Audiences for Literature Network" program, which is designed to provide opportunities for individuals in local communities to participate in a wide variety of literary arts activities. These include public programs, writing workshops, book discussion groups, literary festivals and writing contests."

"We're thrilled," said Nancy Pearl, executive director of the Washington Center for the Book. "We look forward to sharing ideas about literary programming and audience development with other organizations around the country." Jean Trebbi, executive director of the Florida center, echoed Nancy Pearl's sentiments, adding that she hoped to use what she learned about audience research and strategic planning to develop projects with other affiliated state centers.

The Florida Center for the Book at the Broward County Library was established in 1984 as the first affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library was established in 1989. The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund seeks to enhance the cultural life of communities and make the arts and culture an active part of the everyday lives through support of programs in the performing, visual, literary and folk arts, adult literacy, and urban parks.

Washington Center for the Book
at the Seattle Public Library

CORDS

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work was quickly forwarded electronically to the queue for copyright cataloging on-line.

CORDS was initiated in fiscal 1993 as a joint project of the U.S. Copyright Office and the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI) under joint funding from the Library of Congress and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). With the support of the Library of Congress and DARPA, CNRI is leading a national effort with the U.S. Copyright Office to develop an infrastructure for linking digital works in electronic libraries and other transaction-based systems. Associate Register for National Copyright Programs Mary Levering is coordinating development of CORDS.

The CORDS system allows applicants to submit applications and works in digital form over the Internet, using the latest version of privacy enhanced mail (Mime Object Security Systems—MOSS) to "digitally sign" their submissions. The Copyright Office then verifies the authenticity of these electronic submissions, debits fees from the applicants' Copyright Office deposit accounts and returns electronic acknowledgments or correspondence to the applicants. Individual digital works will be assigned unique Digital Object Identifiers, called DOIs or "handles." The office's digital repository will store these digital copyrighted works in a secure and verifiable manner.

When linked to standardized naming conventions (handles), copyright registration permits creators and owners to record the existence of intellectual property in the form of digital objects. Users can then know that specified digital objects exist and can locate them. A framework for managing access to copyrighted works in qualified digital repositories is essential for digital libraries because it enables such repositories to provide authorized access to users while assuring the authenticity and integrity of the stored digital work.

Coincidentally, both of the first two CORDS submissions from Stanford University call to mind the broader national goals of CORDS, relating to digital library infrastructure and management of access to copyrighted works in digital libraries. The first two technical reports submitted were: "Towards Interoperability in Digital Libraries: Overview and Selected Highlights" and "A Communication Agreement Framework of Access/Action Control."

The Copyright Office first proved the concept of CORDS electronic copyright registration and deposit with its initial test partner, Carnegie-Mellon University, in 1996. Several additional test phases are planned for 1997. The office will continue testing and improving the system over the next few years, working closely with representative groups of copyright owners to register in digital form a limited number of various types of works. These include electronic journals, books, digital dissertations, pictorial and graphic materials such as photographs, charts and maps, sound recordings, computer programs and videos. During the forthcoming test phases, the Copyright Office and CNRI will continue to expand the system's capabilities and capacity, while making corrections and enhancements to the system for later national deployment.

The copyright system has been a part of the Library of Congress since 1870. In addition to administering the copyright law, the U.S. Copyright Office creates and maintains the public record of copyright registrations and recorded documents, provides technical assistance and policy advice on copyright issues to Congress and executive branch agencies, offers information to the general public and obtains copies of works for the collections of the Library of Congress.

Capturing 'The Drama Within'

New Book Offers Captivating Glimpses of Libraries

by Barbara Bryant

"I was a quarry ready to be charmed," wrote Diane Asséo Griliches, explaining in her preface to *Library: The Drama Within* why she decided to publish a collection of photographs of libraries and the people who use them.

"The path was opened by my love of books and my great fondness for libraries," she continued, "one of the very few institutions on earth where any soul may walk through its doors free and depart enriched."

A professional photographer, Ms. Griliches said her aim was to capture the architectural grandeur of older libraries.

"In contrast to many recently built ones, most libraries built in years past had artistic significance," she wrote. "They were symbols of optimism and civic pride. Though many newer libraries may have a more 'democratic' look, they are often plainly utilitarian, and one learns less from them about beauty."

The result is a thought-provoking and at times wistful tour of libraries and literacy centers in the United States and abroad, some of which no longer exist except in these pages. Ms. Griliches wrote explanatory text for each of the 60 black-and-white photographs in the book, which was published last year by the University of New Mexico Press in association with the Library's Center for the Book.

Twenty-six of the photographs are now on display in an exhibition at the Library. Tara Holland, Miss America 1997 and literacy advocate, visited the Library on March 21 to kick off the opening of the exhibition, which will run through May 31 (see story on page 128).

In her captions for each photograph, Ms. Griliches describes both the room or scene and the library's location and unique significance. She has also embellished each photograph with a quotation by a famous writer or staunch library patron.

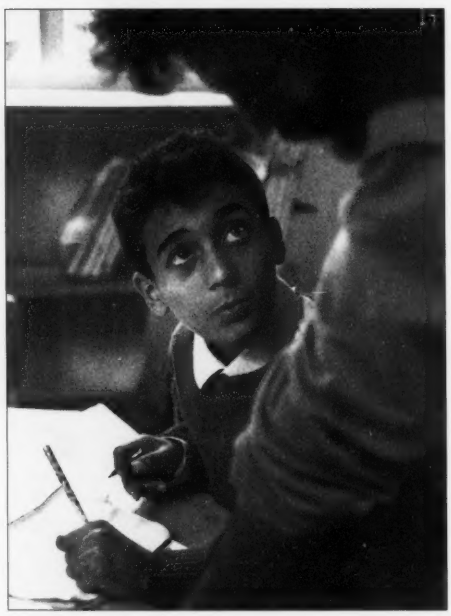
"Why is there not a Majesty's Library in every county town? There is a Majesty's gaol and gallows in every one," wrote Thomas Carlyle. His words might well have inspired the citizens of Macon, Miss., who turned a local jail that was built in 1907 and closed in the 1970s into a library. Ms. Griliches' photograph offers a nice view of book-lined shelves glimpsed through prison bars. In her explanatory text she saluted Macon's citizens – who, despite many obstacles, raised the necessary funds. "They were also determined to preserve its unique 'decor,'" Ms. Griliches wrote. "Along with the barred cells, a rope hook and trap door for the gallows were left on the third floor."

Each turn of the page brings the story of another library to life. The

The former town jail in Macon, Mississippi, is now the Noxubee County Library. Local citizens took pains to maintain its historic appearance.

Diane Asséo Griliches

The grand reading room of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, France, serves as the cover for *Library: The Drama Within*, Diane Asséo Griliches' book of library-related photographs.

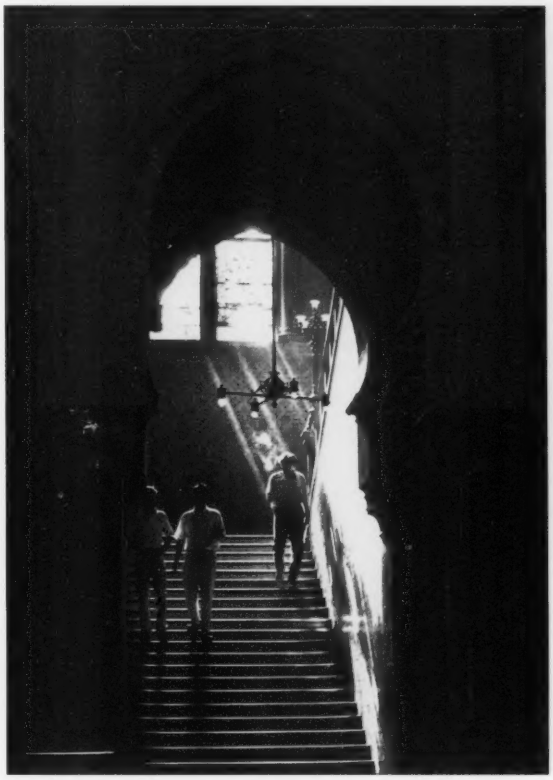


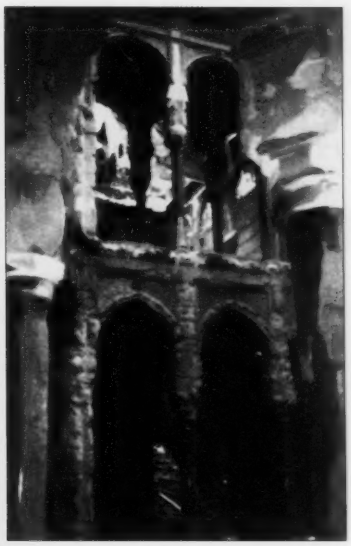
Two patrons of the Hungarian Library in downtown Jerusalem, Israel; (right) a scene from the Tulkarm Arab Orphanage Library, Tulkarm, Israel.

three-room Hungarian Library in Jerusalem is a haven for its readers, many of them immigrants from Budapest who had learned little or no Hebrew and sought out childhood favorites and other titles in their native language. Under the photograph of two elderly readers backed by rows of well-used books, a quote from Bel Kaufman: "This was merchandise to be handled. If the pages were worn and dog-eared, if the card tucked into its paper pocket inside the cover was stamped with lots of dates, I knew I had a winner!"

Forty-eight institutions, including the Library of Congress, are represented; among them, the Biblioteca Marucelliana in Florence, Italy, the Bibliothèque Nationale, in Paris, the two-room Biblioteka Ivan Pastric in Split, Croatia, and the Tulkarm Arab Orphanage Library, in Tulkarm, Israel. One also catches glimpses of the Massachusetts Correctional Institution Law Library in Norfolk, the Perkins School for the Blind Library in Watertown, Mass., and the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, among others.

Library: The Drama Within contains both an introduction by John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, and Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin's celebratory essay on the book, "A Design for an Anytime Do-It-Yourself, Energy-Free Communication Device."





The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzogovina (now destroyed). The photo at right was taken in 1991. "In August 1992, the Serbs bombed the library for three consecutive days with incendiary grenades. Only the walls now remain."

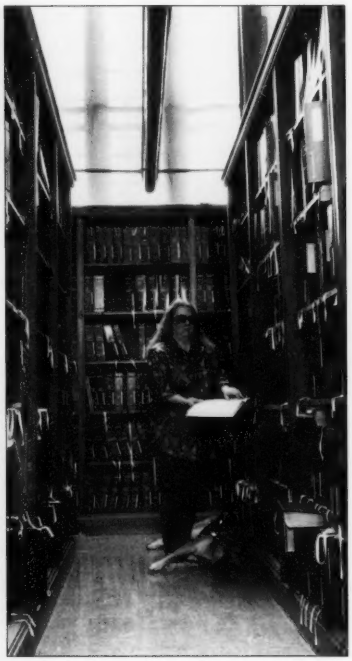
Ms. Griliches first learned about the possibility of collaborating with the Library on this book from Jeanne Guillemin, a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Library's American Folklife Center and a professor of sociology at Boston College. The photos were previously exhibited at the Widener Library at Harvard University in 1993 and at the Boston Public Library in 1993 and 1996. In 1993 Ms. Griliches wrote to Carl Fleischhauer, who was then serving as the Folklife Center's coordinator of media documentation, to gauge the Library's interest in publishing or exhibiting her work. "When I saw Diane's photographs, I remembered a wonderful amateur photograph contest the Center for the Book was holding at the time, inviting children to submit photos they had taken of people reading books," Mr. Fleischhauer recalled. "I believed John Cole would take a real interest in the work a professional photographer had produced on the same theme."

He was right. In addition to providing financial support for publication of Ms. Griliches' book, Dr. Cole worked with the Library's Interpretive Programs Office to develop the current exhibition. Martha Hopkins served as exhibit director, and the design is by James Symons and Sheila Harrington of Studio Five in Washington. Mr. Cole is also discussing the possibility of cosponsoring a traveling exhibit with the American Library Association. Following the exhibition, the photographs will become part of the collection of the Library's Prints and Photographs Division.

"The exhibition depicts libraries and their inhabitants in all kinds of wonderful, often poignant ways," Mr. Cole said. "In fact, we're using it as the premiere event in the Center for the Book's national reading promotion campaign, 'Building a Nation of Readers,' which will run through the year 2000. Libraries are at the heart of the reading enterprise and Diane's photographs illustrate and celebrate that fact. Through her work we encounter research libraries, busy public libraries and local literacy centers, scholars, citizens, students and curious readers and learners of all ages."

Mr. Cole also pointed out that the center's participation in publishing *Library* helps to spread the word about the Library of Congress's literacy-promotion efforts to an increasingly broad audience. "The book is receiving attention from research, university and trade audiences, sectors of the reading public that we don't normally reach," he noted. "We're very grateful for the opportunity her work has given us to inform more people about the Center for the Book's reading and library promotion activities."

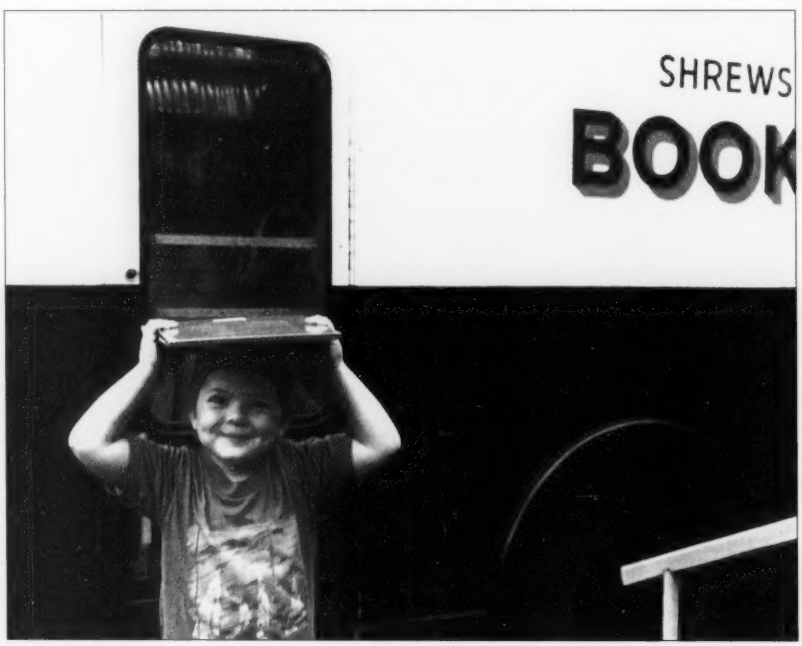
Some readers may be surprised, however, by photographs of the ruined National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzogovina in Sarajevo. In the text accompanying before-and-after photographs of the library, which was ravaged by shellfire in August 1992, Ms. Griliches quoted a wartime survivor's chilling description of a legacy lost. Enes Kujundzic, the library's current director, said that "this was an extremely reading-oriented population and the Bosnian Serb forces knew that if they wanted to destroy this multiethnic society, they would have to destroy the library."



Such reminders of destruction and loss are leavened by other pages filled with promise, such as the sight of children grinning as they peer into a computer screen at the Monroeville County Library in Alabama. Another memorable shot captures a woman, flanked by her Seeing Eye dog, reading a book in Braille in the stacks of the Perkins School for the Blind Library in Watertown, Mass. A dozen or so pages along the way, a cheerful young boy pops up, balancing a book on his head outside a bookmobile in Shrewsbury, Mass. The sense of wonder many readers find in books may be best summed up in the words of author Rita Mae Brown, who wrote, "When I got my library card, that's when my life began."

– Barbara Bryant is a writer-editor in the Development Office.

Young volunteers at the Monroeville County (Ala.) Public Library browse the computerized catalog; (right) stacks of Braille volumes from the Perkins School for the Blind Library in Watertown, Mass.; (bottom) a satisfied customer of the Shrewsbury (Mass.) Bookmobile.



Budget

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relations with Russia, China and Japan and monitored the situations in Bosnia and the Middle East," Mr. Mulhollan said.

He also told the panel that last year CRS developed a plan to improve service to Congress in response to changes in the legislative process and high turnover of members between the 104th and 105th sessions.

"A CRS analysis of Senate activity indicated that more than 70 percent of Senate roll call votes on the floor in 1996 were devoted to budget-related matters. As budget issues have increasingly become the focus of congressional work, CRS has enhanced its analysis of budget and appropriations issues and delivery of this work to Congress.

"In responding to high turnover in the membership of Congress, a recurring pattern over the past three Congresses [with 39 new senators on board since the November 1992 general election], we continue to offer assistance tailored to the unique needs of new members. ... This year we intensified our efforts for the 105th Congress by scheduling visits to all new member offices to brief members and congressional staff about the services CRS provides," Mr. Mulhollan told the panel. He also submitted a copy of his report "CRS Strategic Goals for Meeting Changing Needs of the Congress" to the panel.

During his oral testimony Dr. Billington discussed "the nature and horizons of the Library of Congress ... in terms of What? Who? How? When? Why?"

- "What? ... The Library of Congress ... is the world's largest and most varied collection of knowledge, including the mint record of American creativity made usable on location here in Washington by a diverse and richly talented staff. The Library's 111 million items cover more than 530 miles of shelf space with materials in more than 450 languages and almost all media. The Library is also the hub of a growing electronic network of information that is rapidly becoming accessible almost everywhere.
- "Whom does the Library serve? First and foremost, Congress. Our first priority is the delivery of books, research services and electronic enhancements to the Congress of the United States. The Library provides exclusively and only for Congress an organized, regular flow of scholarly research, analysis and briefings based on the collections through the Congressional Research Service — and also material and information from the Law Library of Congress and, when required, from other curatorial divisions. We get information about Congress out electronically to the nation in user-friendly, searchable form through THOMAS; we are currently helping to build the Legislative Information System for Congress; and we hope to find more ways to make Library collections and services available and useful to Congress. The Library also serves the scholarly and research community and the nation more broadly.
- "How do we serve? We serve Congress with both the artifactual collections and electronic information networks. We serve the scholarly world largely in public reading rooms here in Washington, and we serve the nation increasingly by providing electronic access to our materials remotely in local communities. We also provide free 23 million items to the blind and physically handicapped every year, save the nation's libraries about $268 million a year by cataloging some 300,000 books and serials and register more than 560,000 copyright claims. We acquire some 7,000 new items every day and recently added to our collections probably the finest collection of Americana still in private hands: the 10,000 items in the Marian S. Carson collection. We are currently recording a total of 1.5 million electronic transactions a day. The National Digital Library is increasingly becoming the centerpiece: our pioneering attempt to deliver the primary documents of American history and culture to schools, libraries, and homes across the nation."

Dr. Billington then introduced Martha Dexter of the National Digital Library Program, who made an audiovisual presentation for the panel.

Dr. Billington then continued with the When? and Why? parts of his statement:

- "Our current budget submission is based on a strategic plan projected through the year 2004; and this plan is in turn derived from our Statement of Mission and strategic priorities. These documents, [which the Librarian submitted along with his testimony] are our guides in answering the questions of When? and Why?"

During the question-and-answer session, Sen. Stevens asked Dr. Billington and Mr. Scott what the Library had done to improve its security in the last year. Mr. Scott, on the job as Deputy Librarian since Sept. 30, 1996, told Sen. Stevens that Dr. Billington has made him directly responsible for all day-to-day operations, including security. He said that the Library has been working assiduously to implement the more than 800 recommendations in the 956-page June 10, 1996, Computer Sciences Corp. report on LC's collections security. "We've implemented the first 150 low-level security recommendations from the CSC report already and [new Director of Security Kenneth] Lopez is now overseeing our security management plan."

Dr. Billington said that the Library has improved reading room security with cameras and surveillance. One benefit of improved security in the stacks, he said, is that the Library's not-on-shelf rate has dropped appreciably, due to fewer misshelved items.

Sen. Stevens asked Mr. Mulhollan about CRS's proposed "Succession Initiative." Mr. Mulhollan explained to the panel that in the FY 1998 budget proposal, CRS is asking permission to hire 60 new employees over a three-year period, 1998 to 2000, and then reduce its staff by 60 over a six-year period from 2001 to 2006 to help cushion attrition among nearly 400 CRS staff who will be eligible to retire by 2006.

Mr. Stevens commented: "I've defended CRS in the past from attacks because I believe in the concept of 'shared staff' for members of Congress. ... It's going to be a tough time for CRS [with these retirements] and you're going to have to live through it."

Sen. Warner asked Mr. Mulhollan to update him in six months on progress with the succession planning initiative. "The work that you do is absolutely critical to Congress," Sen. Warner told Mr. Mulhollan.

Regarding the upcoming reopening and centennial of the Jefferson Building this May, Dr. Billington said, "On April 30, members of Congress will be invited to preview the Library's first permanent installation of the rarest of the Library's treasures of Americana, including the first [extant] book printed in America, the earliest known baseball card, the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night of his assassination and the photograph of the Wright brothers' historic first flight taken at the instant of takeoff."

– Edward Ohnemus

Mr. Ohnemus is assistant editor of The Gazette, *the Library's staff newspaper.*

Seminar participants in the Law Library Reading Room (from left, standing): Natalie Gawdiak, GLIN Ukraine liaison; Sandra Sawicki, GLIN instructor; Glenn Reitze, GLIN instructor; Janice Hyde, GLIN program officer; Paulo Roberto da Silva Pinto, Brazilian technical specialist; Eduardo Ghuisolfi, Uruguayan technical specialist; Soumaya Jmour, Tunisian technical specialist; Nick Kozura, GLIN project technical manager; Luis de Castro, GLIN technical specialist; Serhiy Pylypenko, Ukrainian legal analyst; Dario Ferreira, GLIN instructor; and Jean Lee, GLIN scanning technician; (seated): Leonat Pashkja, Albanian technical specialist; Sokol Berberi, Albanian analyst; Heloisa Klee, Brazilian legal analyst; Maria Cristina Terra, Uruguayan legal analyst; and Tetyana Kovaleno, Ukrainian technical specialist. Not pictured are: Ameur Bourourou, Tunisian legal analyst; Rubens Medina, GLIN project manager; and Christine Anderson, GLIN administrator.

GLIN Training Seminar Brings the World to the Library

Tunisian technical specialist Soumaya Jmour enjoys a humorous remark while receiving a GLIN training certificate from Law Librarian Rubens Medina at the end of the three-week session.

Sometimes the programs and plans one undertakes are more than the sum of their parts. The Law Library's recent Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) three-week training seminar was one of these.

GLIN is a cooperative, on-line legal database to expedite the exchange of laws between countries. An outgrowth of the Law Library's indexing and abstracting of law gazettes begun in the 1950s, this network has now gone global and is a parliament-to-parliament program. Each participating nation sends a technical specialist and a law-trained staff person to the Law Library to learn the technical and legal standards necessary to put GLIN into effect in their country. The most recent session took place in the Law Library on Feb. 3-21.

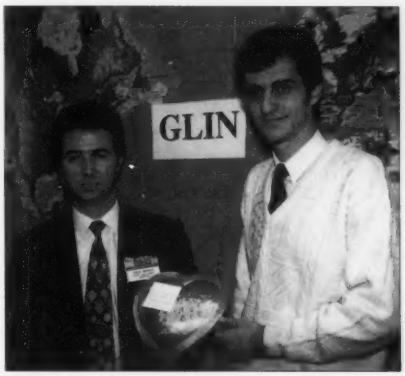
Because GLIN is a cooperative enterprise, as both Rubens Medina, GLIN project director, and Nick Kozura, GLIN technical manager, pointed out the start of the seminars, the "training" taking place is more accurately described as an information exchange. This session included representatives from Albania, Brazil, Mexico, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uruguay. The level of information technology in some nations is on a par with that of the United States, except

for the lack of sufficient financial resources to obtain hardware and software. Thus, classmates taught each other and asked questions that focused on the most crucial aspects of training. In addition, some member country representatives offered to work on basic features of the GLIN network itself.

Konstantinos Kalpakis of the University of Maryland spoke on the uses and construction search engines for Web sites. A representative of a software company that developed the portable document format (PDF) also gave the technical participants an overview of the PDF facility, an integral component of GLIN.

– Natalie Gawdiak

Ms. Gawdiak is a writer-editor in the Law Library.



Albanian participants Sokol Berberi, legal specialist and Leonat Pashkja, technical specialists, surprised the Law Library staff with a box of Valentine chocolates during a Law Library coffee held by Library staff to welcome the GLIN teams during the February seminar.

Technical specialists in the Law Library's GLIN training classroom (from left, standing): Leonat Pashkja of Albania; Eduardo Ghuisolfi of Uruguay; Paulo Roberto da Silva Pinto of Brazil; (seated): Tetyana Kovalenko of Ukraine; Konstantinos Kalpakis, NASA-GLIN instructor; and Soumaya Jmour of Tunisia. For the first time during the legal training sessions, the GLIN legal analyst participants were asked to draw up a descriptive outline of the hierarchy and nomenclature of their country's legal system. The result of this exercise will benefit users when these descriptions are made available in GLIN to enable correct searching through the various levels of legal instruments and to facilitate comparative legal research. The GLIN legal representatives also had to the opportunity to meet their counterparts on the Law Library research staff. These personal contacts are excellent in-country sources that work to the benefit of both the U.S. Congress and parliaments abroad.

GLIN Albania Transmissions Continue Despite Crisis

While the Law Library was holding its February GLIN training session, which included two members from the newly formed GLIN-Albania team, civil strife in that country was rapidly increasing.

"The Law Library staff and I were all quite concerned for our GLIN team members, Sokol Berberi and Leonat Pashkja, from the Albanian parliamentary staff, because the headlines had been growing worse by the day," Rubens Medina, GLIN project director, said. However, soon after the two men returned to Albania, Nick Kozura, GLIN project manager, reported that Mr. Berberi and Mr. Pashkja had begun to transmit several laws to the Law Library GLIN server and have been in contact by electronic mail.

"We do not know what kind of conditions they are working under, but it was a big relief to us to know that they are alive and well. It is heartening to know that they can carry on despite the current difficulties, and I feel that this is strong evidence of their dedication and the Parliament's commitment to cooperating with other nations interested in the rule of law and legal information exchange. We all hope that the situation in Albania will soon be resolved," Mr. Medina said.

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